

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
H-01 /085 W
-----040130 251221Z /46

R 241112Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7225

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, PK
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGH IN CONTACT WITH PRC OFFICIALS

1. A WELCOME SHIFT IN OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH PRC OFFICIALS WAS PROBABLY REALIZED WHEN EMBASSY ISLAMABAD POLCOUNS AND ANOTHER POLOFF WERE INVITED TO ATTEND FILM SHOWING "DREAM OF THE RED CHAMBER" AT THE PRC EMBASSY HOSTED BY COUNSELOR TIEN TING ON EVENING JULY 22. PREVIOUSLY INVITATIONS TO PRC EMBASSY FILM SHOWINGS WERE EXTENDED ONLY BY PRC AMBASSADOR LU AND WERE LIMITED TO AMBASSADOR AND DCM.

2. INCLUDED AMONG APPROXIMATELY TWENTY GUESTS WERE BRITISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY AND WIFE, TWO JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICERS, PORTUGUESE VICE CONSUL AND HIS INDONESIAN/CHINESE WIFE, A PAKISTANI MILITARY OFFICER AND TWO LOCAL OVERSEAS CHINESE RESTAURANT OWNERS WITH THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN. THREE MFA OFFICIALS ALSO ATTENDED INCLUDING ANWAR KEMAL, DIRECTOR FOR CHINA, WHO SERVED IN PEKING FOR THREE YEARS (1970-73) AND IS A CHINESE SPEAKER. HE RECENTLY TOOK OVER AS MFA DIRECTOR FOR CHINA, HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN PAK UN MISSION FROM 1973 TO EARLY 1978. APPROXIMATELY TEN PRC EMBASSY OFFICIALS FROM POLITICAL AND

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CULTURAL SECTIONS WERE PRESENT.

3. PRIOR TO FILM, LIMITED AMOUNT OF CHINESE DELICACIES AND DRINKS INCLUDING MAO TAI WERE SERVED. CHINESE WERE VERY ATTENTIVE HOSTS THROUGH EVENING. COUNSELOR TIEN TING TOLD EMBOFF THAT CHINESE HAD SELECTED GUESTS BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL INTEREST IN CHINA. TIEN ENDED CONVERSATION BY REMARKING THAT HE HOPED THIS GET-TOGETHER

WOULD BE ONLY FIRST OF MANY WITH HIS FOREIGN FRIENDS.

4. COMMENT: JULY 22 FILM SHOWING COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN OUR CONTACTS WITH PRC OFFICIALS. WOULD BE INTERESTING IF OTHER POSTS HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED SIMILAR INVITATIONS TO ATTEND PRC FUNCTIONS AS THIS COULD SIGNAL A GENERAL THAWING TREND IN OFFICIAL PRC POLICY TOWARD CONTACT WITH US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HUMMEL

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